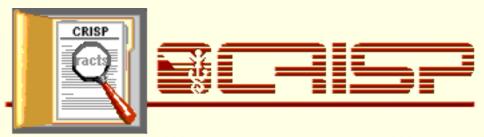
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Abstract

Grant Number: 5F31NR007336-02 **PI Name:** LUTZ, KRISTIN F.

PI Title:

Project Title: WOMAN ABUSE DURING PREGNANCY--EXPERIENCES AND

DECISIONS

Abstract: The overall purpose of this study is to examine and describe women's perceptions of experiences of abuse during pregnancy and the effects of abuse on decision making about health behaviors, health care, and the abusive relationship. The specific aims of the proposed research study are to: 1) explore women's perceptions of abuse during pregnancy; 2) describe the effects of abuse on the decisions women make during pregnancy; and 3) generate the development of an initial grounded theory of the effects of abuse on pregnancy, and on women's decisions made in pregnancy. Since this phenomenon has not been studied from the perspective of those experiencing it, a qualitative design using Dimensional analysis (DA) methodology will guide this research. DA is a method for deriving grounded theory. Participants will be pregnant women who are currently in an abusive relationship with their intimate male partner. Twenty-five women from two prenatal clinics will be interviewed at two intervals: the first interview will occur in the prenatal period, and the second, in the prenatal or postpartum period (up to eight weeks post-partum) The DA processes of data expansion, data limitation, perspective selection, and theory development will guide data collection and analysis of this phenomenon. Abuse during pregnancy is a significant public health issue, but little is known about the impact of abuse on decision women make within the context of pregnancy. The findings will provide a basis for interventions designed to enhance the health and safety of pregnant women who are abused.

Thesaurus Terms:

decision making, experience, perception, pregnancy, prenatal care, spouse abuse

health behavior, postpartum

behavioral /social science research tag, clinical research, computer data analysis, human pregnant subject, human subject, interview

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